(a) whether the families of Kuki tribes not only live in Manipur but they are also found in surrounding areas;

(b) whether Myanmar has the highest population of Kuki tribes; and

(c) the number of Kuki tribes in Nagaland, Assam and Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information on population of various communities in other countries is not maintained.

(c) While in Nagaland only the Kuki tribal community is listed as a Scheduled Tribe, in Assam 37 tribes and in Tripura 17 tribes are included under the broad nomenclature "Kuki".

[English]

Food Processing Facilities

3112. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry has reported that inefficiency riddles India's Food Chain;

(b) if so, the details of the points raised in the said report; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) The Confederation of Indian Industry in a recent report prepared in consultation with Mckinsey & Company has mentioned that India's food chain is riddled with inefficiency right from agriculture through to distribution. The main issues identified are the high cost of the large number of intermediaries, problems of wastage and value loss and low yields. Government is aware of the need to conserve food production. For this, proper post-harvest technologies like storage, transportation and food processing are being developed to reduce wastage and value loss. Also, agriculture research is being developed to improve yields through better technologies and extension Food Processing Industries are being encouraged through delicensing, fiscal concession etc. Proper marketing through price support mechanism and investment in improvement of market infrastructure are other steps to help boost agricultural production.

Gorkha National Liberation Front

3113. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GNLF Chief has been disputing India's territorial sovereignty over the 'ceded land of Darjeeling and lease hold land of Kalimpong Doors' and has reportedly pleaded the Central Government to evolve appropriate constitutional steps to undo this historical blunder;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the fact that this issue is haunting the minds of the people and giving rise to the bogey of sovereign State of Gorkhaland; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps being taken to do away with such confusion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Shri Subash Ghisingh, as President of the Gorkha National Liberation Front, has been raising the issue of separate State of Gorkhaland from time to time. He had filed a Writ Petition in the Supreme Court, seeking directions to the Government of India to formally absorb the territories of Darjeeling including Kalimpong, Assam Dooars and Bengal Dooars, in the Union of India through a Parliamentary legislation. The Supreme Court had dismissed the Writ Petition.

Indian Council of Veterinary and Fishery Research

3114. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for formation of Indian Council of Veterinary and Fishery Research was received in the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Dr. Asim Bala, Member of Parliament Lok Sabha and other 100 Members of Parliament represented the Government to create Indian Council of Veterinary Research in the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying on the lines of Indian Council of Medical Research in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Similar proposal was received from Chief Minister of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Haldia Petrochemicals Limited

3115. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the downstream industry Haldia Petrochemical was conceived for West Bengal;